



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

# Outstanding Scholars Newsletter

## January 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

## Monthly Program Updates

by Joshua Galasso

Welcome! This is the third issue of the OS newsletter created to assist Outstanding Scholars (OS) Students in keeping up-to-date with everything related to the OS program.

### What is Outstanding Scholars?

Outstanding Scholars are paid to do research outside of the classroom, working alongside faculty members on research projects! This unique opportunity lasts for three years, particularly in your second, third, and fourth years of undergraduate study.

### OS Contracts updates

Winter 2021 OS Contracts (applies only to 2nd year OS and higher):

- ⌚ Must be submitted by January 27, 2021 for 100% of the hours; February 2, 2021 for 80% of the hours; and February 9, 2021 for 60% of the hours
- ⌚ Proposals and contracts are found on the OS blackboard page

Starting next academic year, OS Proposals and Contracts will move into an online SharePoint process to make the procedure go more smoothly.

### OS Research-Based collaborations

Outstanding Scholars has been working to build research-based collaborations with partners in government and industry in the Windsor-Essex region.

There is a new folder called "Community Projects" available on the OS Blackboard page that contains three projects available to join this semester.

Students in any undergraduate faculty can join these projects and choose to enroll in an experiential learning course such as SCIE-3990, GART-3100, KINE-4980, or a range of business courses such as STEN-4950 (all courses have instructors that agreed to provide oversight of the OS community projects).

If you are interested in learning more about these projects, please email Dr. Simon du Toit at [scholars@uwindsor.ca](mailto:scholars@uwindsor.ca).



### OS Student Achievements

The OS Student Achievement section highlights achievements of students in the OS program! This includes publications, scholarships/awards, and more. Email Jana Khanafey, OSSC President, at [khanafey@uwindsor.ca](mailto:khanafey@uwindsor.ca) to be featured in future issues!

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### Monthly Success Tips

The Monthly Success Tips section discusses new tips each month to help students to excel in their classes. Have any tips you would like to share? Let us know!

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# Monthly Program Updates Continued

## Outstanding Scholars Swag

Outstanding Scholars currently offers merchandise to be purchased to rep the OS program. Items available at the moment include OS hoodies, sweatshirts, t-shirts, and masks!

These items can be purchased online through the Outstanding Scholars Website. (<https://www.uwindsor.ca/outstandingscholars/339/outstanding-scholars-swag>)

## Dr. du Toit's Office Hours

Dr. Simon du Toit offers weekly virtual office hours to give students a chance to ask any questions they may have about the OS program.

These office hours are held on Mondays and Thursdays at 4pm; the meetings can be joined by following the meeting link emailed to OS students weekly prior to 4pm. If you are not an OS student but would like to join office hours, you can reach out to Dr. du Toit at [scholars@uwindsor.ca](mailto:scholars@uwindsor.ca) for the link!

## OS Students in the Faculty of Education

OS students have been recognized for their great work in the Faculty of Education. Here is what Dr. Clayton Smith, Associate Professor of Education, had to say:

"In the past two years:

- Two (Miranda Pecoraro and Fatme Ammar) scholars have seen their names appear as co-authors on our publications.
- The support from OS was instrumental in us meeting the SSHRC matching for the recently awarded Connection Grant.
- The support the students are providing for our upcoming research symposium makes this activity not only possible but student-centered.
- Kendra's efforts to make my courses more interactive in the online world have been well received by students and my OER co-author."

Outstanding job, Scholars!

## Recognizing OS Students

During January, violinist and Outstanding Scholar, Stefanie Adams, claimed this year's Ron W. Ianni Memorial Scholarship in Performance.

For the first time, the annual showcase of students' musical skill was held on Zoom and all performances had been previously recorded and loaded to YouTube. Check out more information at <https://www.uwindsor.ca/dailynews/2021-01-11/violinist-earns-scholarship-performance>.

Also during January, physics student and Outstanding Scholar, Emma Blanchette, was the recipient of the 2020 Lucjan Krause Scholarship.

"I was very excited about winning the Lucjan Krause scholarship," says Blanchette. "It is extremely encouraging to receive a scholarship in recognition of the academic and departmental work I've done, and it has certainly motivated me to reach even further."

Check out more information at <https://www.uwindsor.ca/dailynews/2021-01-11/physics-celebrating-star-students>

# OS Student Achievements

The OS Student Achievement section is used to highlight OS students who have made a notable accomplishment in either an academic or personal capacity.

The January 2021 OS Newsletter would like to recognize Eman El-Masri, a fourth-year electrical engineering student. Here is what she had to say:

"As an Outstanding Scholar's student, I have always been invested in challenging myself in and outside the classroom in pursuit of excellence and new opportunity. My academic achievements have been recognized by several awards from within and outside the University of Windsor. However, working under the supervision of Dr. Emadi at her Electrical Micro and Nano Devices and Sensors (e-Minds) lab has been the highlight of student experience.

Working with the e-Minds team to research

the technology of Nanodevices for the biomedical and agricultural industries has undoubtedly enriched my undergraduate experience and sparked my interest in research. I have had the opportunity to design and fabricate sensors, learn computing software, and collaborate with different departments.

As an undergraduate student, I am grateful to have co-authored a book chapter titled Sensors and Wearable Electronics in Healthcare for publication. I am also currently co-authoring a review paper with my team about sensing materials for agricultural greenhouse sensors.

I am always happy to offer my time to mentor new engineering students and prepare tutoring sessions for challenging engineering courses. I was an executive for the Windsor Women in Engineering club and

worked with the Ontario Network of Women in Engineering. Through my involvement with the engineering community, I aspire to encourage women to pursue a career in STEM."



Eman El-Masri

# OS Students on Exchange

## MADISON PLANTE

**Program:** Integrative Biology

**Year of Study:** Fourth

**Research:** Sensory ecology of freshwater and marine fish species



"I was fortunate enough to be selected as an exchange student for the Winter 2020 semester, attending Victoria University of Wellington in Wellington, New Zealand. My time in NZ, although cut short due to COVID-19, was one of the best experiences of my life. This program granted me an amazing opportunity academically, to expand my scientific knowledge, and personally, to become a more adaptable and adventurous individual.

There were many challenges faced while adjusting in another country, but overcoming these challenges only made me more resilient! Spending time in one of the most beautiful countries while meeting amazing and interesting people made for an unforgettable experience. I got to hike mountains, immerse myself in NZ cities and nightlife, and even go paragliding! I would recommend exchange to anyone willing to step out of their comfort zone and experience something phenomenal."

Madison Plante

## DEVON FRASER

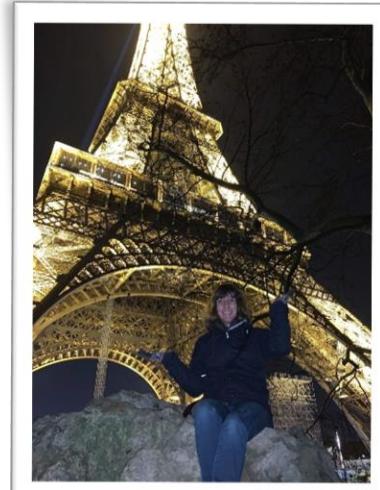
**Program:** History with an English minor

**Year of Study:** Fourth

**Research:** "Breaking the Colour Barrier" project

"I went on exchange to Swansea University in Wales, and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made! I was able to take classes in different topics that I could never take at Windsor, such as Egyptology, and I met some amazing people while I was there, from my fellow volunteers at the Egypt Centre to other exchange students from different countries.

I was able to travel throughout the United Kingdom and Europe while I was on exchange, visiting famous places that I'd only heard about in books or movies. On top of all of this, I was still able to complete my hours for Outstanding Scholars, working online with my professor despite the time differences. Going on exchange was an incredible decision, and I'll never forget the amazing experiences I had because of it!" – Devon Fraser



## OLIVIA CONLON

**Program:** Human Kinetics

**Year of Study:** Fourth

**Research:** Cerebrovascular System



"This past year, I had the opportunity to take part in an international exchange to Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. I was excited to make new friends, try new things, and live internationally. However, after 6 weeks, Covid-19 gave me an impossible decision: to stay in Australia until it was safe to travel or to come home during a global pandemic. The next morning, I was on the last flight back to Canada where I continued my courses online.

Although my exchange wasn't what I thought, I made life-long friendships, experienced more than I could've imagined, and still have an amazing story to tell. My favourite part of exchange was learning to surf, driving the Great Ocean Road, and my memories in residence. I would recommend anyone who has the opportunity to go on exchange to take it, you won't regret it (even if a pandemic cuts it short!)." – Olivia Conlon

## RESEARCH



## Research Opportunities

There are currently over 200 opportunities stored on the Outstanding Scholars Blackboard page, to which all OS students have access.



## UWill Discover

OS students regularly present their research work at UWill Discover, the university's annual undergraduate research conference

## EXPERIENCES

# 97%

of OS students remain on track to graduate, or graduate in a timely way

# 87%

of OS students say they are either "Well Satisfied" or "Extremely Well Satisfied" with the OS program

## FAST FACTS

100 First Year OS Candidates

248 OS Students in Years 2, 3 and 4

\$10,450 Earnings Over 4 Years



During January, Outstanding Scholars met on zoom for an exciting game night including Among Us, JackBox, Family Feud, Pictionary and many more! Monitor your emails for future opportunities to RSVP for these types of events.

## Monthly Success Tips

I hope everyone is having a great start to the Winter 2021 semester. Here are a few tips to help you excel in your current semester of courses:

- Start assignments early
- Get ahead on readings
- Develop a routine

### Start Assignments Early

As the semester is underway, you should ensure you are starting assignments as early as possible. This consistent work throughout the semester reduces the workload later in the semester which allows you to dedicate more time towards midterms and exams when you are busy.

### Get Ahead on Readings

Completing readings and homework as they are assigned allows for you to identify difficult concepts early. Identification of difficult concepts early ensures you have the opportunity to email your professors/TAs with questions you may have or attend office hours to get clarification.

### Develop a Routine

While we continue to work from home, it is important to develop a routine to ensure you are maximizing productivity. For example, ensure that you allocate time daily to complete work at the time of day you are most productive. Furthermore, ensure you allocate time to take a break from work; this break can be used to get exercise or relax!

## Upcoming Opportunities

### UWill Discover

UWill Discover 2020 will be a 3-day event in which undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Windsor can present their research, scholarship, and creative work to their fellow students, friends and family, and the world!

The event will be occurring between Tuesday, March 30th, 2021, and Thursday, April 1st, 2021 and students can find out more information at <https://www.uwindsor.ca/success/652/uwill-discover>.

### McCall MacBain Scholarship

The McCall MacBain Scholarships are Canada's first comprehensive, leadership scholarships for master's and second-entry professional undergraduate studies. Starting in June 2021, Canadian students and alumni can apply to join the second-ever class of McCall MacBain Scholars at McGill for their studies starting in Summer/Fall 2022.

The workshop is on Thursday, February 4th, at 4:00 pm. You can register for the workshop at: <http://bit.ly/uwindsor-mccallmacbain>.

**Want to learn, lead, and engage in positive change?**



SCHOLARSHIP INFO SESSION

### Lancer Leadership Conference

This is a conference for the students, by the students, to show that there is no age limit to becoming a great leader; *Leadership and You* is the conference theme for LLC 2020.

The inaugural Lancer Leadership Conference will happen on Friday, January 31, and Saturday, February 1, in the School of Creative Arts. Students can learn more at <https://www.uwindsor.ca/success/lancerslead>.

# Thanks for reading!

Thank you for reading the third issue of the Outstanding Scholars Newsletter. If you would like to see any additional topics covered in the future, please email Jana Khanafer, OSSC President, at [khanafej@uwindsor.ca](mailto:khanafej@uwindsor.ca).

[www.uwindsor.ca/outstandingscholars/](http://www.uwindsor.ca/outstandingscholars/)

## Outstanding Scholars Newsletter

401 Sunset Ave  
Windsor, ON N9B 3P4

### Address

401 Sunset Ave  
Windsor, ON N9B 3P4



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uwindsor\_os

